IMT Nuremberg Archives

H – 1038

International Court of Justice

H1038 – 0001

H1038 - 0002

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE IN INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL 13 MARCH 1946.

2 July 1946

COMMISSIONER: Colonel A.M.S. Neave

POLITICAL LEADERS

(The Commission convened at 1000 hours)

GRAF VON ROEDERN, a witness took the stand and testified as follows:

COLONEL NEAVE: Does the witness remember he is still under oath?

THE WITNESS: Yes sir.

COLONEL NEAVE: I have read the affidavit and the cross examination of Gauleiter Bohle and as I told you last night, you may not examine this witness on any of the matters that are quite comprehensively stated in the affidavit Bohle. In that connection I have a particular reference to the description of Fifth Column activities.

DR. GRUBE: I have shortened the questions. I have only one question. The last thing we discussed yesterday was point 4, that is the participation on the conspiracy by the Auslandorganisation.

COLONEL NEAVE: Just to make the record clear, by that you mean point 4 in the statement you put to me of what this witness is supposed to bring out?

DR. GRUBE: These are the points like Gauleiter Rosenberg, persecution of the Jews, etc. Shall I continue with these questions or shall I go back to the questions which were asked in the beginning of the hearing?

H1038 - 0003

COLONEL NEAVE: Since we have started on the reference to conspiracy, I think we had better continue on the subject, but understand you are going to cut down on your questions considerably.

DR. GRUBER: Yes, I have.

DIRECT EXAMINATION RESUMED

By Dr. Grube------

Q. Did the Auslandorganisation on the 9th and 10th of November receive any orders to destroy synagogs, to persecute the Jews and things like that?

A. No, we had no orders, quite to the contrary, after the excesses of the 8th and 9th of November became publicly known, we received a flood of telegrams from foreign countries which protested against such excesses. Gauleiter Bohle, by order of Reichsmarshal Goering, had summarized all of the damages being done to the Germans abroad. By such excesses though, the murdered Herr von Roth was a member of the Auslandorganisation.

Q. Did you know that the top leaders of the party of the state had set their final goal as a complete elimination of the xxxxxxxx churches and substituted therefor, Nazi concepts and installations?

A. No but I xxx knew very well that several of the party leaders were hostile to the church.

Q. What was the relationship of the Auslandorganisation and its political leaders to the church?

A. The leadership of the Auslandorganisation and the Germans abroad in general, appreciated the merits of the church in regard to the preservation of German abroad. Bohle had issued an explicit order forbidding the political leaders abroad to discuss the problems of churches abroad. This order was extended to the political speekers from the Reich who were sent to foreign countries for

H1038 -0004

to give speeches on certain national holidays.

Q. Was the leadership of the Auslandorganisation aware that the discussion of free trade unions took place because Hitler and the leaders wished to govern the German people without interference from the trade unions in order that they would be enabled to prepare and to lead war?

A. In my opinion, and I also may speak for the opinions of my comrades, the destruction of trade unions meant to put down the thought of the class struggle in Germany.

Q. Is it correct that not only the trade unions were destroyed and the German labor front substituted for it, but also the associations of industrialists?

A. Yes. Employer and employee were put together in the German labor front.

Q. Is it correct that the Auslandorganisation in occupied territories of Norway, Holland, general government and in the occupied Russian territories had no organization there and was not active there?

A. Yes. Their working areas of the NSDAP were formed which was subordinate directly to the party Chancellory.

Q. Was there any question at all between these so-called working areas and the Auslandorganisation?

A. There was no connection at all.

Q. Did the Auslandorganisation have any knowledge of the mass murders and deportation as enumerated by the prosecution?

A. No but I myself, as Fuehrer of the Landesgruppen in France, I myself have witnessed individual shooting to death ~~and was~~ the action Sauckel.

Q. You have just enumerated the occupied territories where the Auslandorganisation

H1038 - 0005

had no offices and was not active, but there were Landesgruppen of the Auslandorganisation in the remaining territories?

A. I must add something here. In the occupied territories there were minor offices for the mission Russia. In Riga and Nikolaev, in the other occupied territories, particularly in the occupied western territories there were Landesgruppen of the Auslandorganisation.

Q. You yourself managed the business pertaining to the Landesgruppen in France so you are competent to give information regarding the following question: What were the duties and tasks of the Landesgruppen of the Auslandorganisation in the occupied territories?

A. It was the caring for the ReichsGerman and the ReichsGerman civilian employees of the Wehrmacht in every respect. For instance, the issue of ration coupons, textile, etc. Then the care for the troops which were the occupying troops in the territories. And further, the general party tasks which I have described previously.

Q. Will you just [redacted] mention [redacted] care for the troops? What do you mean by that?

A. In France, for instance, there was an office for the care of troops whose duty it was to procure theatrical entertainment, motion pictures, concerts, etc. for the troops. It also includes the installation of soldier homes.

Q. Did the Landesgruppe of the Auslandorganisation in occupied territories have any influence on the administration of these territories?

A. No in no case.

Q. Did the offices of the Landesgruppe of the Auslandorganisation work together with the task of Saukel?

H1038 - 0006

A. No, that was the affair of the Military Commander.

Q. Did the Landesgruppe of the Auslandorganisation have to cooperate with Einsatzstab Rosenberg?

A. No, in no case.

Q. Is it correct that the leader of the Einsatzstab Rosenberg, Reichsleiter Rosenberg, declared explicitly to the Auslandsorganisation that the Einsatzstab Rosenberg was not subordinate to the Auslandsorganisation or any other party office?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it correct that Reichsleiter Rosenberg declared to the Auslandsorganisation that the Einsatzstab Rosenberg would not fulfill any party tasks but they fulfilled purely personal assignments given by Hitler to Rosenberg?

A. Yes, at least according to the statement made to me by Bohle himself.

Q. Can you describe how this statement happened to be made by Bohle?

A. Yes. As the leader of the Landesgruppe France, I was able to observe the work of the Einsatzstab Rosenberg in Paris. For material reasons and for reasons to be found in the personality of the leader of this Einsatzstab in Paris, his name was von Behr, which I do not believe to be of interest to the commission, I have demanded that this stab would be subordinate to my office in order that I may supervise it. In response to this demand which I have made to the Central Office of the Auslandsorganisation, that Reichsleiter Rosenberg had stated to Gauleiter Bohle that this in Paris was none of my business or that of the Landesgruppe and that it was a matter of a personal order of the leader by Rosenberg. I want to state particularly that von Behr was not a political leader but had the rank of an Oberstfuhrer of the German Red Cross.

H1038 - 0007

Q. Do you know of a single case where the lower level of political leaders, that is to say Blockleiters, Zellenleiters, ~~xxxx~~ Ortsgruppenleiter have made plans to make war, to commit crimes against the customs of war and against humanity?

COLONEL NEAVE: Is that a question about the Auslandsorganisation or is it about political leaders in general?

DR. GRUBE: It refers to the Auslandsorganisation.

COLONEL NEAVE: All right.

By Dr. Grube:

Q. Did the Auslandsorganisation ever hear of such plans being made or planned by political leaders within the Reichs territory?

A. Certainly not. It has not become known to the mass of the leiter of the Auslandorganisation and to the leiters outside in the rural.

Q. Has one of the leaders of the Auslandsorganisation been aware of the fact that the highest political and state office did not inform even the Gauleiter of either their plans and what measures in the occupied territories in concentration camps, etc. were taken?

A. It has not become known to me.

Q. Did you and the Auslandsorganisation Leiter know that even the Kreisleiter and the Gauleiter were prohibited to listening to foreign radio broadcasts?

A. I knew very well of it because I was a personal referent to Gauleiter Bohle.

Q. ~~Did~~ Would you, as a leading personality in the Auslandsorganisation, inform us as to whether it is correct that the supreme party and state offices

H1038 - 0008

immediately answered any rumor regarding, for instance, xxxxxxxx the treatment of Jews in the East in great detail so that anyone would have been convinced that these were false rumors?

A. Yes. For us in the Auslandsorganisation it was very easy to manufacture these denials because all we needed to do was to point out that the enemy powers admitted after the last war that they had invented atrocity stories regarding the behavior of the Germans.

Q. Is it true that the leadership of the Auslandsorganisation was not in a position to picture clearly for themselves what the final aims of the government were and what actually was happening in the concentration camps in the Eastern territories, etc.

A. Yes, that is correct.

Q. I will now read point one but in a very brief way.

COLONEL NEAVE: Will you just explain to me exactly what you mean by point one. You are referring, I gather, to the membership of the Auslandsorganisation?

DR. GRUBE: Yes, who could become a member? This question was particularly put so as to find out whether foreigners and Volksdeutsche could become members.

COLONEL NEAVE: Isn't paragraph #3 of Gauleiter Bohle's affidavit a sufficient answer to that question?

DR. GRUBE: I just wanted to say that I agreed with this and that I don't want to put the question regarding the conditions which allowed for membership.

COLONEL NEAVE: I would like to hear something about the Volksdeutsche but not too long.

DR. GRUBE: If my memory serves right I asked yesterday the meaning of the explanation Volksdeutsche.

H1038 - 0009

COLONEL NEAVE: Did we have it answered then?

DR. GRUBE: I don't remember. I do not believe so.

COLONEL NEAVE: A short answer then.
The witness:
[redacted]: All the Germans who do not have the German nationality of Volksdeutsche.
By Dr. Grube: Could these Volksdeutsche become members of the Auslandsorganisation?

The witness: No.

COLONEL NEAVE: I think that the next point that we want to go on to the organization structure of the Auslandsorganisation. Can you explain to me what you want to say there?

DR. GRUBE: Everything has been explained already by the hearing of Bohle and it goes without saying that the Auslandsorganisation did have political leaders and also so-called Hoheitstrager. I just wanted to submit some questions regarding the political leaders of the Auslandsorganisation and what the Auslandsorganisation meant by Hoheitstrager.

COL: NEAVE: Hasn't that been covered too in this transcript?

DR: GRUBE: Gauleiter Bohle has declared in his affidavit that they were Hoheistrager but he did not illucidate that the Hoheitstrager in the Auslandsorganisation had an entirely different position and practically he was not a Hoheitstrager; that the designation Hoheitstrager was merely a characteristic, the man actually having not the position which the man had had in the Reich territory and that is what I wanted to question the witness about.

COLONEL NEAVE: What page is Dr. Servatius' cross examination on?

COLONEL JONES: On page 6454.

COLONEL NEAVE: Yes. Comparatively short, isn't it?

COLONEL JONES: It was apparently all that Dr. Servatius thought was

H1038 - 0010

necessary at that time.

COLONEL NEAVE: As a matter of fact the answer in the cross examination covered the subject which Dr. Grube has information on. I think this must be kept very short indeed. It has been ~~made public~~ covered by previous hearings.

DIRECT:
By Dr. Grube:

Q. Were the political leaders of the Auslandsorganisation in a special organization of political leaders; that is as/the introduction of the trial brief reads in a special and recognizable organization which one could join from, from which one could resign, similar to the SA.

A. No.

Q. Is this arrangement valid also generally regarding the political leaders?

A. Certainly, though I myself was not a political leader within the Reich.

Q. According to the decree of the Deputy of the leader dated 15 April 1945 which we shall submit in the document between the Leiter of the Auslandsorganisation had the rank of a Gauleiter. The Deputy Leader of the Auslandsorganisation had the rank of a Deputy Gauleiter and the Landesgruppenleiter of the Auslandsorganisation had the rank of a Gau Office Leiter. The same decree characterizes these three groups as well as the Kreisleiter and Ortsgruppenleiter of the Auslandsorganisation, I ask you whether these members of the Auslandsorganisation were actually Hoheitstrager in the sense that it was understood within the Reich?

A. I believe to be able to elucidate this entire problem by three sentences. On the behalf of the decree which was just mentioned on the political leaders of the Auslandsorganisation, including the Gauleiters which had the corresponding rank of a Hoheitstraeger. That was so because of course in foreign countries the one

H1038 - 0011

necessity was missing to the Hoheitstrager which was the Hoheitstrager area--sovereign area. That is why the Landesgruppenleiter were members of the staff of the Auslandsorganisation in Berlin and not as it should have been according to the party situation considerd Kreisleiter.

Q. Can I summarize your statement correctly by saying that the designation of Hoheitstrager in the Auslandsorganisation was actually only a title?

A. Yes. We did not even wear the insignia of rank which was provided for the Hoheitstrager within the Reich except the Gauleiter.

Q. Is it true that the Hoheitstrager pyramid, so called in the Auslandsorganisation, differ from the Hoheitstrager pyramid within the Reich territory, which is to say that the organization book is wrong in this respect?

A. The organization book, as far as it referred to the Hoheitstrager pyramid was not made according to the Auslandsorganisation and consequently was not valid for it.

Q. I now come to another point. Did the Auslandsorganisation participate in the struggle of Volkstum in the south Tyrol and the Sudetenland, etc?

A. No. All members of the Auslandsorganiaation were prohibited strictly from participating in the struggle of Volkstum.

Q. The hearing of Gauleiter Bohle already revealed the fact that the principle motto of the Auslandsorganisation was not to mix into other peoples' politics and that one of the reasons for it could be found in the Deupty of the Fuehrer, the representative point of view that National Socialism was in export goods.

COLONEL JONES: This has already been covered, you know.

DR. GRUBE: I shall come to the question.

H1038 - 0012

COLONEL NEAVE: I don't think we should hear what you think has been cleared up by Gauleiter Bohle. If you will state to the witness what is gathered in Gauleiter Bohle's evidence as facts but not what you think has been established. By Dr. Grube:

11. Q. A further reason mentioned by Gauleiter Bohle was the diplomatic relationship with foreign countries should be burdened, that is why I want to ask you. The attitude of the Auslandsorginisation not to disturb diplomatic relations with other countries . Did this attitude also influence the Auslands-organisation in the political disputed countries such as Alcase Lorraine?

A. Yes. In order not to dispute the political relationships with France before the war, the Auslandsorganisation rejected any organizational activities in Alsace Lorraine . During the war also, we have not become active there.

Q. What was the affect of the order not to mix in on the Auslandsorganisation in their relation to Austria in 1938?

A. The leader of the Auslandsorganisation in Austria was prohibited specifically by Bohle from making any connections whatsoever with the so-called "illegals". This brought about constant friction between the illegal national socialists within Austria and the national socialists members of the Auslandsorganisation which is to say the Reichsdeutsche.

Q. Were the foreign offices of the Auslandsorganisation permitted to make connections with Nationalists or Facists group of the foreign countries?

A. This was repeatedly forbidden by Gauleiter Bohle. This previously, however, was not applied to the so-called state carrying movements of Fascism and the Falange in Spain.

Q. What do you mean that this prohibiting did not apply to Fascism in Falange?

COLONEL NEAVE: That is ~~evading this~~ a very vague question. Can't we get down to the fact?

H1038 - 0013

By Dr. Grube:

Q. ~~DR. GRUBE~~: Is this answer to be taken to mean that the Auslandsorganisation could make contact with Fascism and Falange or are you referring to the Falanges in the organisation?

A. In Italy and Spain there was a certain cooperation between the Landesgruppenleiter and/the representatives of the ~~Fascism~~ Fascism and Falangist parties. AAD in Italy respectively Spain.

Q. Why was the organization dissolved in the United States by the representative of Hess?

COLONEL JONES: Surely this cannot be of any assistance in the defense of the ~~political~~ political leaders, for reasons agree the Bund in America was dissolved.

COLONEL NEAVE: No. I don't think that question is relevant at all. I do want to know very briefly what further matters you want to bring up particularly in respect to the activity of the organization in the United States. No doubt this witness is in a position to know something about that ~~and~~ but on the other hand it seems to be to be a matter which his Chief has very thoroughly gone into. Is he particularly qualified to know about the United States except in so far as he was the personal assistant to Bohle?

DR. GRUBE: The hearing heretofore has been of great value on the personality of Mr. ~~Cooter~~ Grote. He was active in the leadership of the organization, and it is said to have received reports from the confidential agents in the United States and there are said to have been reports of great political contact.

COLONEL NEAVE: Yes, but ~~which~~ hasn't Bohle answered that allegation ~~already~~ all ~~right~~ ready?

~~COLONEL JONES: He is referring to 6486.~~

H1038 - 0014

COLONEL ~~MEAVE~~ JONES: Surely if the man has already dealt with ~~Beck~~ by Bohle, it isn't necessary to go on.

COLONEL NEAVE: This man has been dealt with in the cross examination. What I want to know is what further matters in defense of this organization can you draw out with regard to Mr. Grote and what is it you want to establish? that has already ~~EXXXGRUBE~~: been dealt with?

DR. GRUBE: Of what Bohle said, "I know nothing about Grote receiving such letters." The questions which the prosecution put in this cross examination lead me to believe that Bohle did not have the all inclusive perspective. The German record reads literally on page 6483, " in a question of prosecution that I am sure must conclude from your statement that you are ignorant of the happenings within the organization." B ohle answered, "it is understood that such an organization ~~xxxxxxx~~ demanded the chief to reside in Berlin must not know everything which happens on the outside, particularly if it is done against his orders."

COLONEL NEAVE: Now you are talking about something quite different, ~~not about Grote that are~~ not matters in respect to Grote.

DR. GRUBE: No, but Bohle was charged with having no supervision of his organization and Bohle in regard to the question pertaining to Grote explained, "that he did not know of such reports." I just want to prove that he did receive reports and in order to make it ~~doubly~~ sure I want to ask his personal referent.

COLONEL NEAVE: Let me read this page to you on page 6487 of the English transcript in answer to a question by Mr. Colonel Amen. It is at the top of the page and it is the first answer at the top of the page. It is the second sentence, the first answer of of Bohle at the top of the page: "Mr. Grote had an honorary position with us because of his advanced age and took over the branch of the office because it was of no ~~xxxxx~~ importance at all in the Auslandsorganisation". Now what more do you really require to go into in

H1038-0015

in order to defend the organization?

COLONEL NEAVE: Evidently Gauleiter Bohle didn't think this was a very important matter.

DR. GRUBE: I want to shortly go into the person of von Strempel after the persecution has brought von Strempel further as a witness for them. and ah affidavit from von Strempel was submitted by the prosecution during the session. If the defense for the political leaders has found now the defense of the political leaders must have grave doubts as to the creditability of this witness. In order to illustrate this further, I should like to ask the witness questions about Herr von Streipel.

COLONEL NEAVE: You are going to leave Grote out?

DR. GRUBE: After having found that Grote had not an important office in the Auslandsorganisation I shall leave him and Grote was shown not to be the proper person to execute important political actions in the United States nor to evaluate and take measures on reports being sent to him.

COLONEL NEAVE: Now this interrogation of Herr von Strempel. That was referred to in Col. Amen's interrogation isn't it?

DR. GRUBE: Von Strempel was not heard in the Tribunal during the session but the prosecution submitted an affidavit by Herr von Strempel which was shown to Bohle.

COLONEL NEAVE: Can you tell me what page that was on?

DR. GRUBE: The German document page 6483.

COLONEL NEAVE: It was actually on Page 6482 further referred to on another page on page 6487. Will you wait just one minute while I read through the whole affidavit? Will you ask the witness whether he knows anything about this subject but briefly?

H1038 - 0016

By Dr. Grube:

Q: Are you acquainted with von Strempel?

A. I know von Strempel. He was Counsel of the legation of the German Legation in Washington.

Q. How was the relationship between von Strempel and the Auslandsorganisation?

A. Because Gauleiter Bohle rejected von Strempel. Von Strempel knew that because Gauleiter Bohle saw in von Strempel a political representative of the Foreign Office and he believed that he had to reject him.

Q. So there were certain tension in the relationship with von Strempel?

A. Yes.

Q. Von Strempel stated in the affidavit which he gave to the prosecution after the dissolution of the Auslandsorganisation in Vienna in 1933. It is said to have entertained relationship with the German American Bund. For instance, it is said to have issued directives to the German American Bund as to its organizational structure as to the holding of mass meetings, as to the propaganda, etc. Witness, did you ever hear of such a thing that this might have been the case?

A. No. I would have known of that and it certainly has not been done by the leadership of the organization.

Q. Von Stempel further maintained in his affidavit that Draeger is said to have been the representative of the Foreign Department of the party in the U.S.A. This Draeger is said to have conducted the relationship with the foreigners of the German American Bund. When the Deputy of the Fuehrer issued a decree in the year 1935-36 that all Reich Germans had to resign from the German American Bund. Witness, have you ever heard of Mr. Draeger having conducted relationship with the German American Bund as a representative of the NSDAP?

H1038 - 0017

A. As far as I know the Auslandsorganisation did not have any confidential agent by the name of Draeger in North America. I assumed that von Stempel referred to the German consul in New York, Dr. Dreger.

Q. Would von Stempel have had to know the name of the confidential agent in the United States?

A. Certainly, because Dr. Dreger who was a consul and member of the Foreign Office belonged to the same agency von Stempel belonged to.

COLONEL NEAVE: Wait a minute. I don't see the point to this. Von Stempel said he was talking about Mr. Draeger who was the consul in New York. He said that in his affidavit. Is anything being said about another Mr. Draeger? I don't understand it.

Dr. GRUBE: I want to apologize. The German never spoke of such a Dr. Dreger but only Mr. Draeger.

COLONEL NEAVE: It said on Page6485 in the English Transcript. In the English protocol there is an answer to the question which is part of the affidavit of von Strempel. It is at the top, "I am sure Mr. Drege, consul in New York City and representative of the Foreign Section of the Party, did continue to have relations with both officials." So I don't think you really should confuse this discussion concerning Mr. Drege with another Mr. Draeger whose name is spelled different. This is, in fact, a misprint in connection with correct spelling of the consul's name, but the correct spelling of his name, then, is Dreger according to you, is it?

DR. GRUBE: The correct spelling seems to be Draeger.

COLONEL NEAVE: And we are talking about the consul in New York?

DR. GRUBE: Yes.

H1038 - 0018

By Dr. Grube:

Q. I am now coming to another point regarding von Strempel. According to the statements of the prosecution, Herr von Strempel was in the German legation in Washington. According to Herr von Strempel he had been First Secretary of the Legation in Washington since 1938. Again on the basis of the statements of the prosecution, his statements were made regarding the situation pre-dating 1938. He could not have known the situation on the basis of personal experience but in order to be sure I shall ask you. Do you know whether Herr von Stempel was connected with the Legation in Washington before 1938?

A. No. As far as I can recall he was in Cairo before.

Q. One more question to the creditability of Herr von Strempel. In The session of the Tribunal on the 25th of March 1945, the prosecution stated according to the German records 6504 that during the interrogation of Herr von Strempel, he was asked whether he had made a report to the Foreign Office in Berlin concerning the relationship of von Draeger to the German American Bund. Herr von Strempel is said to have answered "yes" several times, and reports which he made for Thompsen when he was at the Legation. We have called Bohle's attention to the relationships with the Bund being very harmful. I now ask the witness did you ever hear of Herr von Stempel and Thompson sending such reports to the Foreign Office?

A. No.

Q. Would Thompsen and Herr von Strempel be forced to make such reports to the Foreign Office or would there have been other ways?

A. Consul Dr. Draeger was a full time paid consul and only honorary representative of the Auslandsorganisation. The German Ambassador in Washington, Herr Thompson would have found it easier to simply prohibit Dr. Draeger from continuing relations with the German American Bund. It is possible that within the

H1038 - 0019

execution of his duties, Consul Draeger had connections with the German American Bund or any other German associations.

COLONEL NEAVE: This I am sure, doesn't seem to be the answer to your question at all. Would they have had any other means of sending reports?

DR. GRUBE: No. I just wanted to find out whether if Thompsen or von Stempel had any conception whether there would have been another way to stop this situation except by reporting to Berlin.

COLONEL NEAVE: He doesn't seem to be answering that question.

By the Witness:

A. Yes, I have answered it by saying that the Ambassador Thompsen had the possibility to prohibit the activities of Dr. Draeger without making a report to Berlin.

COLONEL NEAVE: I see.

DR. GRUBER: The third question to the third point.

COLONEL NEAVE: We will have a short recess here for 10 minutes.

The commission recessed at 1142 hours.

Com. B
Shumway
Take 2, pg. 1
2 July 46 1130-1300
Graf von Roedern

H1038 - 0020

DIRECT EXAMINATION RESUMED AT 1200 HOURS

Q. Witness. According to the statement of the Prosecution which coincides with yours, was Herr von Strempel also active in the German Legation only since 1938? His assumed reports, which the Prosecution also states, refer to the situation before 1938, that is to say, of matters which were of the past. There was no more cause for the Foreign Office to ask Draeger to break off his relationship to the Bund. Can you tell me what other reasons may have caused that sort of reports?

A. I remember on the basis of my work with the Legal Department of the leadership of the Auslandsorganisation Office in Berlin, it fell within my duties to work on the so-called home-coming project of export trandesmen from America.

Q. I believe witness, you have understood me. I wanted to ask you if those reports from Thompsen or from von Stremple regarding the relationship of Draeger to the Bund [redacted] are [redacted] meaningless because they refer to a situation which prevailed before 1938. Could you think of anything which may have caused Thompsen and von Strempel to send reports regarding these past events?

A. I don't know any reason which might have caused such reports to be made.

COLONEL NEAVE: Is that really relevant?

DR. GRUBE: I considered it relevant because I disputed the fact that von Strempel made such reports. Von Strempel was a member of the Legation in Washington only since 1938. After the statement of the prosecution itself, his reports referred to a situation before 1938. I cannot see what the meaning was of these reports by von Strempel after these things were of the past and taken care of and for this reason I consider the statement of von Strempel false; that he [redacted] has made any reports whatsoever to the Foreign Office.

H1038 - 0021

COL. NEAVE: Will you make this very short. I am not clear at all how it is relevant in this case.

DR. GRUBE: That finishes the case of von Strempel. I have some questions regarding the cooperation between the Auslandsorganisation and the German American Bund. I want to summarize this, however, in order to save time, into one single question.

By Dr. Grube:

Q. Have you ever heard of any officials of the German American Bund returning to Germany at the request or at the instigation of the Auslandsorganisation? And to have conferences with representatives of the Auslandsorganisation or that these had conferences with the Fuehrer or the Deputy of the Fuehrer at the instigation of the Auslandsorganisation?

A. As far as I can recall, Kuhn, who was the leader of the German American Bund, was in Berlin during the Olympiade. He was received by the Fuehrer, as far as I can recall, also by Hess. It is quite impossible that his visit to Germany, the reception by the Fuehrer or with the Deputy of the Fuehrer, has been instigated by the Auslandsorganisation.

Q. On the basis of your activities in the Central Office of the Auslandsorganisation and on the basis of your position as the personal ADC of the leiter of the Auslandsorganisation, would you have to have had knowledge of any secret radio transmitters in either the Central Office or any of the offices in foreign countries?

A. I would have had to know of this. No office of the Auslandsorginasition, of the NSDAP in foreign countries, and also the leadership of the organization in Berlin ever has had either a secret or a public sender.

2 July 46

H1038 - 0022

Q. The prosecution refers to a telegram of the German Ambassador von Stohrer in Madrid. This document was introduced as a Document M-158. Have you ever heard or observed that the Landesgruppen in Spain had a transmitter?

A. I can definitely state that the Landesgruppen in Spain never has had a transmitter.

Q. Did the German Embassies have secret transmitters?

A. Yes, the German Embassies did have secret transmitters.

Q. Did the leadership of the Auslandsorganization issue any military or paramilitary orders to the Landesgruppen?

A. During the time I was attached to the leadership of the Auslandsorganization, such orders were not issued. I do not know of anything like that having been the case previously.

Q. Did the Landesgruppen leader of the Auslandsorganisation transfer such reports of a military or paramilitary nature to the Central Office?

A. No. Such reports were not sent to the leadership of the Auslandsorganisation. If an individual German National in a foreign country reported such a thing to his Landesgruppen leader, this man was sent to the competent Military attache without any action being taken on his report.

Q. The prosecution has submitted a book compiled by the Americans, pertaining to the Organization in Holland, PS 3258. It was introduced as Exhibit B262. This document maintains that the Auslandsorganisation of the NSDAP continued in Holland under the name of Reichsdeutsche Gemeinschaft or Citizenship Association. The leader is said to have been a certain Dr. Butting. Witness, do you know anything about this association?

A. I know both the association and Dr. Butting.

2 July 46 -

H1038 - 0023

Q. Was this a secret organization?

A. I want to say very little about the organization of the Reichs German in foreign countries. In any locality where there were found German Nationals, there was in existance a so-called Reichs German association. All Reichs Germans belonged to this association regardless of their party affiliation. This association was lead by a confidential representative of the Ortsgruppenleiter of the Auslandsorganisation. In 1936 the the Landesgruppen which is to say, the representative of the party organization, was prohibited in Holland. But this does not apply to the Reichsdeutsche Gmeinschaft. The former leaders of the Auslandsorganisation in Holland remained in Holland with a knowledge of the Holland Government. He became the leader of the Reichsdeutsche Gemeinschaft.

Q. Did the Dutch Government know of the Reichsdeutsche Gemeinschaft?

A. This could be seen from the fact that ordinary correspondence ~~to the~~ went to the place with the different local Dutch Reichsdeutche Gemeinschaft groups by way of ordinary postal channels.

Q. The prosecution states that the leader of the Reichsdeutche Gemeinschaft, Dr. Butting, had cooperated with the Intelligence and Espionage Service in Holland to which belonged 12 agents of the Canaris Bureau. I ask you witness, whether it is true that while you were present at conferences to the press between Bohle~~r~~, Canaris and Schellenberg, is it true that Bohle~~r~~ decisively declared during his conferences that under no circumstances could political leaders of the Auslandsorganisation be performing services of the SD and the Counter-Intelligence Service?

A. Yes. Dr. Bohle~~r~~ has asked again and again not to use political leaders for this purpose. We knew that individual political leaders were drafted for the SD and the Counter-Intelligence. Gauleiter Bohler has asked of Admiral Canaris as well as from Schellenberg who was the Leiter of Section VI of the RSHA, that

H1038 - 0024

those political leaders who were drafted into these organizations would immediately be dismissed from that service. All the names of these people would be submitted to him so that he could dispose them as political leaders.

Q. What were the reasons Bohle gave to Canaris and Schellenberg in explanation of this attitude?

A. The danger that the Landesgruppen concerned may be prohibit ~~which~~ would make it impossible for him to fulfill his tasks to care for the Reichsdeutsche abroad.

COLONEL NEAVE: Wait a minute Dr. Grube. Have you got any more questions? Otherwise we won't have very much time for the cross-examination.

DR. GRUBE: Only two more questions. 1/

BY DR. GRUBE:

Q. Is it correct that both Canaris and Schellenberg promised Bohle not to use the political leaders of the Auslandsorganisation as Counter-Intelligence?

A. Yes, and to respectively dismiss those who had already been engaged in that work.

Q. If political leaders of the Auslandsorganisation actually had cooperated with the SD and the Counter-Intelligence, they acted against the definite order of Bohle and against the assurances made by Canaris and Schellenberg?

A. Yes that is correct. During conferences, these agreements were always brought to the attention of the Landesgruppen leaders.

DR. GRUBE: No further questions, Sir.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY COLONEL M. JONES: ~~For what reason was the Auslandsorganisation closed down in Holland?~~ Q. For what reason was the Auslandsorganisation closed down in Holland?

A. I do not recall the reasons. That took place before my time.

Q. It was closed down because the Dutch Government thought it was a nuisance. Isn't that correct?

H1038 - 0025

A. Yes Sir.

Q. Because it was undermining or rather it was spreading Naxi influence into Holland?

A. Y es in the view of the Holland Government.

Q. That is the same reason the Auslandsorganisation in America had closed down, wasn't it?

A. The Auslandsorganisation in America was dissolved by the Deputy of the Fuehrer.

Q. That is the same reason that it was dissolved and was never reorganized?

A. Yes.

Q. And you know that between April and May of 1938 there were no less than 9 representatives of the Auslandsorganisation in England were required to leave that country?

A. Yes.

Q. You know that one of them was named Roesel or that one of the Auslandsorganisation representatives in England was called Roesel?

A. I cannot recall the name.

Q. Do you remember that he was a correspondent ~~of on Burns~~ Goebbels' newspaper in London and in his spare time he acted as leader of the London Group of the Auslandsorganisation?

A. I cannot recall anything definite but I believe that he cooperated in the press office of the Landesgruppe.

Q. Yes. He was thrown out of London on the ~~suspicion~~ suspicion of espionage activities.

A. That is possible but I cannot recall exactly.

Q. Can't you remember that he then went subsequently to Stockholm? He replaced the SS man who had been in Stockholm called Wagner.

Q. A. No, I don't know.

H1038 - 0026

Q. Can't you remember him being thrown out of Stockholm by the Swedish Government?

A. I cannot recall that.

Q. It is very remarkable that you cam't remember a person like that who seems to have been around the capitols of Europe.

A. I myself was in Sweden twice druing the war and I certainly would have if Roesel had been the leader of the political organization in Sweden I would have recalled this situation now.

Q. Why was it if the Auslandsorganisation was perfectly harmless, why was it that it should have been closed down in the United States, closed down in Holland and that during the course of 2 months in 1939, April and May, the preparations of war were in hand? No less than 9 of their representatives had to be sent out of England

A. I believe that those governments which prohibited the Auslandsorganisation and the government of the United States does not belong within ~~thxxgx~~ that group, believed that our organisation would be an espionage organization.

Q. I am asking you why, if it wasn't ~~expixxxxgx~~ an espionage organization, why should it be necessary for 2 countries to cause you to close down in their territory and a third country to expell 9 of your representatives?

A. I am aware of the fact and I have stated so in answer to the question of my attorney, that some members were in the service of the SD and the counter-espionage. I want to state once more that this was in the case with the knowledge of the Auslandsorganisation. In the case of England, Holland, and also I want to say, in the case of Brazil, the events took place which Gauleiter Bohle wished to stop carried the assumption of foreign governments, that because several of the political

H1038 - 0027

leaders were in the service of these organizations mentioned above and the entire organization was thought to be an espionage organization. I wish to call you attention to the trials of certain individual Germans in the USA, in Argentina and Switzerland.

Q. We have listened to you for the last 15 minutes and it really isn't necessary. Let me ask you again and finally, can you suggest any reason for this organisation being closed down in 2 countries and 9 representatives of your organization in a third country being thrown out if it wasn't because your organization was an organization for espionage and spying?

A. Only for the reason that they assumed it was an espionage organization.

Q. In the interest of time, I do not propose to corss-examine this witness any further. The evidence that he has given in effect is exactly the same as his superior Bohle gave and he did only for the purpose of the record mention the page of the transcript which, where the cross-examination of Bohle commenced on page 6454--that was on the 25th of March and the documents which were put to him in the cross-examination and which ~~refuted~~ refuted the evidence he gave were GB262, 284, 285 and 286.

COLONEL NEAVE: Wasn't that the last list of documents submitted ~~in the cross-examination~~ at the end of your cross-examination?

COLONEL JONES: I think so.

COLONEL NEAVE: Do you wish to re-examine him in connection with the cross-examination?

DR. GRUBE: One question in connection with the cross-examination. The prosecutor stated that 9 members of the Auslandsorganisation were thrown out of England in the spring of 1939.

H1038 - 0028

COLONEL JONES: I did not state that at all. I asked if it was so and it was stated to be so by the witness.

COLONEL NEAVE: It is a perfectly proper objection.

BY DR. GRUBE:

Q. Witness, has the Auslandsorganisation been dissolved due to these events in England?

A. The Auslandsorganisation for Great Britain has not been dissolved. The expulsions referred to was referring to honorary members of the Auslandsorganisation. As far as I can recall, were expelled because of other activities.

Q. On the basis of your experience abroad, did the Auslandsorganisation in England have been dissolved if it had have been proven that the employers of these 9 expelled persons actually was the Auslandsorganisation?

A. Yes, it has been tried in England Once before. Mr. Churchill tried that and then had a conference with Gauleiter Bohle in 1937 on the basis of which Churchhill stopped all attacks on the Landesgruppen in England of the Auslandsorganisation.

Q. The cross-examination might have given the impression that the dissolution of the Auslandsorganisation in the United States was compelled by the United States Government. That is why I ask you, who has dissolved the Auslandsorganisation in the United States?

A. The Deputy of the Fuehrer Hess.

Q. Was it dissolved on the basis of the diplomatic pressure of the United States?

A. No. On the basis of reports of confidential agents of the Auslandsorganisation. Because of the danger that the USA might say that the Auslandsorganization is

H1038 - 0029

mixing into interior affairs. That was a very possible conclusion to draw because many former Germans had become U.S. Nationals.

Q. Was there a re-organization of the Auslandsorganisation after its dissolution by Hess in the United States?

A. No, to the contrary. Only confidential agents were appointed to have explicit orders were to watch out carefully that no where in the USA the Auslandsorganisation would be reorganized or reformed.

Q. Is it correct that the Swiss Court on case of the Gustloff case established the legality of the Auslandsorganisation?

A. Yes, that is correct. I myself have discussed it with Professor Grimm.

COLONEL NEAVE: Is that question supposed to be arising out of cross-examination?

DR. GRUE:Yes it is, because the prosecutor enumerated those countries where the Auslandsorganisation was prohibited.

COLONEL NEAVE: The only mention of Switzerland was in answer to a question of the prosecution which did not seem to me relevant to the answer of the questions at all.

DR. GRUBE: The two countries which were mentioned were mentioned to prove the illegal connections of the Auslandsorganisation.

COLONEL NEAVE: The prosecution did not mention Switzerland.

DR. GRUBE: Then I shall ask the following question.

BY DR. GRUBE:

Q. Besides in the 2 countries which the prosecution mentioned, was the legal or illegal connections of the Auslandsorganisation also examined in other countries?

A. Yes. This brought about an investigation in Switzerland due to the Gustloff case. Switzerland declared a continuation of the existence of the Auslandsorganisation undesirable. It permitted, however, the continuation of the

H1038 - 0030

local groups of the Auslandsorganisation after court trials had established it that the activities of the Ortsgruppenleiter did not contridict Swiss law.

Q. Did other countries also declare the legal or illegal character of the Auslandsorganisation? Isn't it also proof for the legality of the Auslandsorganisation the fact that in neutral countries after 1943, which is to say, after a time when Germany could no longer enforce the continued of such groups such as in Switzerland and Portugal and continuation was permitted.

A. Yes, the groups abroad of the Auslandsorganisation were in existence in Switzerland and Portugal, for instance, until the break-down.

DR. GRUBE: No further questions.

COLONEL JONES. There is one matter which I really ought to ask. I don't know whether I can get permission to do so now. It is only a very short one.

COLONEL NEAVE: All right.

BY COLONEL JONES:

Q. ~~COLONEL JONES.~~ Do I understand that you are maintaining that after the Auslandsorganisation was formally closed down in Holland that it did not continue to exist?

A. I do not want to say that because the Auslandsorganisation had assignments to care for the Reichsdeutche, and tasks in Holland no longer were of a political matter by a factual nature.

Q. The Auslandsorganisation in fact, continued ~~after~~ towards as the Citizenship Association?

A. No. I have already declared that the Reichsdeutche Association was something else than the Auslandsorganisation.

Q. Did Butting continue to remain active as a Landesgruppen leader, anyway up to 1938, did he not?

A. Butting remained as the leader of the Reichsdeutche Association with the knowledge of the Dutch Government, remained in Holland.

H1038 - 0031

Q. He remained as Landesgruppenleiter did ne not?

A. In the internal relationship he continued carrying his title as Landesgruppenleiter. B ut in Holland since the Landesgruppe was prohibited he acted as a leader of the Reichsdeutche Association.

DR. GRUBE: The witness stated that he acted in the internal relationship of the Auslandsorganisation as Landesgruppenleiter and on the outside he acted as the Leiter of the Reichsdeutche Association. / Do you stick to your statement BY DR. GRUBE: Q. that the Reichsdeutche Association was part or the Auslandsorganisation? being a system of all German Nationals to which every German National belonged, regardless of his party affiliations., while it is known that the Auslandsorganisation membership all were party members?

A. That is right. After the perpatration in Holland there were no more local groups of the NSDAP in Holland.

Q. And these local groups of the Reichsdeutche Association was not substituted for the local group of the NSDAP.

A. No, if only for the reason all German Nationals belonged to i.

DR. GRUBE: No further questions.

COLONEL NEAVE: Do you want this witness kept in Nuremberg?

DR. GRUBE: I should like him to remain here if he may . During the week we shall discuss whether we need him or not.

COLONEL NEAVE: You mean if we should call him before the Tribunal?

DR. GRUBE: No. We don't now yet.

COLONEL NEAVE: We should decide very soon. We don't want the witness further. You may go. We had better have the witness Mueller in now so that we can discuss it.

Commission recessed at 1258 hours.

H1038 – 0032

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of GRAF VON ROEDERN, taken on 2 July 1946.

Marjorie S Lumsday
Reporter (pp 1-30 ✓

CERTIFIED TO :

_____
Commissioner

H1038 - 0033

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF TRIBUNAL 13 MARCH 1946.

2 July 1946

COMMISSIONER: Colonel A.M.S. Neave.

POLITICAL LEADERS

(The Commission convened at 1000 hours)

GRAF VON ROEDERN, a witness took the stand and testified as follows:

COLONEL NEAVE: Does the witness remember he is still under oath?

THE WITNESS: Yes sir.

COLONEL NEAVE: I have read the affidavit and the cross examination of Gaulieter Bohle and, as I told you last night, you may not examine this witness on any of the matters that are quite comprehensively stated in the affidavit Bohle. In that connection I have a particular reference to the description of Fifth Column activities.

DR. GRUBE: I have shortened the questions. I have only one question. The last thing we discussed yesterday was point 4, that is the participation on the conspiracy by the Auslandorganization.

COLONEL NEAVE: Just to make the record clear, by that you mean that point 4 in the statement you put to me of what this witness is supposed to bring out?

DR. GRUBE: These are the points like Gaulieter Rosenberg, persecution of the Jews, etc. Shall I continue with these question, or shall I go back to the questions which were asked in the beginning of the hearing?

COLONEL NEAVE: Since we have started on the reference to conspiracy, I think we had better continue on the subject, but understand you are going to cut down your questions considerably.

DR. GRUBE: Yes, I have.

DIRECT EXAMINATION RESUMED

BY DR. GRUBE:

Q. Did the Auslandorganization on the 9th and 10th of November receive any orders to destroy synagogues, to persecut the Jews and things like that?

H1038 - 0034

A. No, we had no orders, quite to the contrary, after the excesses of the 8th and 9th of November became publicly known, we received a flood of telegrams from foreign countries which protested against such excesses. Gaulieter Bohle, by order of Reichsmarshal Goering, had summarized all of the damages being done to the Germans abroad. By such excesses though, the murdered Herr von Roth was a member of the Auslandorganization.

Q. Did you know that the top leaders of the Party of the State had set their final goal as a complete elimination of the churches and substituted therefor, Nazi concepts and installations?

A. No, but I knew very well that several of the Party leaders were hostile to the Church.

Q. What was the relationship of the Auslandorganisation and its political leaders tothe Church?

A. The leadership of the Auslandorganization and the Germans abroad in general, appreciated the merits of the Church in regard to the preservation of German abroad. Bohle had issued an explicit order forbidding the political leaders abroad to discuss the problems of Churches abroad. This order was extended to the political speakers from the Reich who were sent to foreign countries to give speeches on certain national holidays.

Q. Was the leadership of the Auslandorganisation aware that the discussion of free trade unions took place because Hitler and the leaders wished to govern the German people without interference from the trade unions in order that they would be enabled to prepare and to lead war?

A. In my opinion, and I also may speak for the opinions of my comrades, the destruction of trade unions meant to put down the thought of class struggle in Germany.

Q. Is it correct that not only the trade unions were destroyed and the German labor front substituted for it, but also the associations of industrialists?

A. Yes. Employer and employee were put together in the German labor front.

H1038 - 0035

Q. Is it correct that the Auslandorganization in occupied territories of Norway, Holland, gemeral government and in the occupied Russian territories had no organization there and was not active there?

A. Yes. Their working areas of the NSDAP were formed which was subordinate directly to the party Chancellory.

Q. Was there any question at all between these so-called working areas and the Auslandorganization?

A. There was no connection at all.

Q. Did the Auslandorganization have any knowledge of the mass murders and deportation as enumerated by the Prosecution?

A. No; but I myself, as Fuhrer of the Landesgruppen in France, I myself have witnessed individual shooting to death - the action of Sauckel.

Q. You have just enumerated the occupied territories where the Auslanderganiz tions had no offices and was not active; but there were Landesgruppen of the Auslandorganization in the remaining territories?

A. I must add something here. In the occupied territories there were minor offices for the mission Russia. In Riga and Nikolaev, in the other occupied territories, particularly in the occupied western territories there were Landesgruppen of the Auslandorganization.

Q. You yourself managed the business pertaining to the Landesgruppen in France, so you are competent to give information regarding the following question: What were the duties and tasks of the Landesgruppen of the Auslanderganisation in the occiped territories?

A. It was the caring for the ReichsGerman and the ReichsGerman civilian employees of the Wehrmacht in every respect. For instance, the issue of ration coupons, textile, etc. Then the care for the troops which were the occupying troops in the territories. And further, the general party tasks which I have described previously.

Q. Will you just mention care for the troops? What do you mean by that?

A. In France, for instance, there was an office for the care of troops whose duty it was to procure theatrical entertainment, motion pictures, concerts, etc., for the troops. It also includes the installation of soldier homes.

H1038 – 0036

Q. Did the Landesgruppen of the Auslandorganization in occupied territories have any influence on the administration of these territories?

A. No; in no case.

Q. Did the offices of the Landesgruppe of the Auslandorganization work together with the task of Saukel?

A. No; that was the affair of the Military Commander.

Q. Did the Landesgruppe of the Auslandorganization have to cooperate with Einsatzstab Rosenberg?

A. No, in no case.

Q. Is it correct that the leader of the Eisatzstab Rosenberg, Riechsleiter Rosenberg, declared explicitly to the Auslandorganization that the Einsatzstab Rosenberg was not subordinate to the Auslandsorganisation or any other Party Office?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it correct that Reichsleiter Rosenberg declared to the Auslandsorganisation that the Einsatzstab Rosenberg would not fulfill any party tasks. but they fulfilled purely personal assignments given b y Hitler to Rosenberg?

A. Yes, at least according to the statement made to me by Bohle himself.

Q. Can you describe how this statement happened to be made by Bohle?

A. Yes. As the leader of the Landesgruppe France, I was able to observe the work of the Einsatzstab Rosenberg in Paris. For material reasons and for reasons to be found in he personality of the leader of this Einsatzstab in Paris, his name was von Behr, which I do not believe to be of interest to the Commission, I have demanded that this stab would be subordinated to my office in order that I may supervise it. In response to this demand which I have made to the Central Office of the Auslandorganisation, that Reichsleiter Rosenberg had stated to Gauleiter Bohle that this in Paris was none of my business, or that of the Landesgruppe, and that it was a matter of a personal order of the leader by Rosenberg.

H1038 – 0037

I want to state particularly that von Berh was not a political leader, but had the rank of an Oberstfuhrer of the German Red Cross.

H1038 - 0038

Q Do you know of a single case where the lower leaders of political leaders, that is to say Blockleiters, Zellenleiters Ortsgruppenleiter have made plans to make war, to commit crimes against the customs of war and against humanity?

COLONEL NEAVE: Is that a question about the Auslandsorganisation or it it about political leaders in general?

DR. GRUBE: It refers to the Auslandsorganisation.

COLONEL NEAVE: All right.

BY DR. GRUBE:

Q Did the Auslandsorganisation ever hear of such plans being made or planned by political leaders within the Reichs territory?

A Certainly not. It has not become known to the rest of the leiter of the Auslandorganisation and to the leiters outside in the rural.

Q Has one of the leaders of the Auslandsorganisation been aware of the fact that the highest political and state office did not inform even the Gauleiter of either their plans and what measures in the occupied territories in concentration camps, etc. were taken?

A It has not become known to me.

Q Did you and the Auslandsorganisation Leiter know that even the Kreisleiter and the Gauleiter were prohibited to listening to foreign radio broadcasts?

A I know very well of it because I was a personal referent to Gauleiter Bohle.

Q Would you, as a leading personality in the Auslandsorganisation, inform us as to whether it is correct that the supreme party and state offices immediately answered any rumor regarding, for instance, the treatment of Jews in the East in great detail so that anyone would have been convinced that these were false rumors?

A Yes. For us in the Auslandsorganisation it was very easy to manufacture these denials because all we needed to do

H1038 - 0039

was to point out that the enemy powers admitted after the last war that they had invented atrocity stories regarding the behavior of the Germans.

Q Is it true that the leadership of the Auslandsorganisation was not in a position to picture clearly for themselves what the final aims of the government were and what actually was happening in the concentration camps in the Eastern territories, etc.

A Yes, that is correct.

Q I will now read point one but in a very brief way.

COLONEL NEAVE: Will you just explain to me exactly what you mean by point one. You are referring, I gather, to the membership of the Auslandsorganisation?

DR. GRUBE: Yes, who could become a member? This question was particularly put so as to find out whether foreigners and Volksdeutsche could become members.

COLONEL NEAVE: Isn't paragraph No. 3 of Gauleiter Bohle's affidavit a sufficient answer to that question?

DR. GRUBE: I just wanted to say that I agreed with this and that I don't want to put the question regarding the conditions which allowed for membership.

COLONEL NEAVE: I would like to hear something about the Volksdeutsche but not too long.

DR. GRUBE: If my memory serves right I asked yesterday the meaning of the explanation Volksdeutxche.

COLONEL NEAVE: Did we have it answered then?

DR. GRUBE: I don't remember. I do not believe so.

COLONEL NEAVE: A short answer then.

THE WITNESS: All the Germans who do not have the German nationality of Volksdeutsche.

BY DR. GRUBE: Could these Volksdeutsche become members of the Auslandsorganisation?

THE WITNESS: No.

COLONEL NEAVE: I think that the next point that we want to go on to the organization structure of the Auslandsorganisa-

H1038 - 0040

sation. Can you explain to me what you want to say there?

DR. GRUBE: Everything has been explained already by the hearing of Bohle and it goes without saying that the Auslandsorganisation did have political leaders and also so-called Hoheitstraeger. I just wanted to submit some questions regarding the political leaders of the Auslandsorganisation and what the Auslandsorganisation meant by Hoheitstraeger.

COLONEL NEAVE: Hasn't that been covered too in this transcript?

DR. GRUBE: Gauleiter Bohle has declared in his affidavit that they were Hoheistraeger but he did not elucidate that the Hoheitstraeger in the Auslandsorganisation had an entirely different position and practically he was not a Hoheitstraeger; that the designation Hoheitstraeger was merely a characteristic, the man actually having not the position which the man had had in the Reich territory and that is what I wanted to question the witness about.

COLONEL NEAVE: What page is Dr. Servatius' cross examination?

COLONEL JONES: On page 6454.

COLONEL NEAVE: Yes. Comparatively short, isn't it?

COLONEL JONES: It was apparently all that Dr. Servatius thought was necessary at that time.

COLONEL NEAVE: As a matter of fact the answer in the cross examination covered the subject which Dr. Grube has information on. I think this must be kept very short indeed. It has been covered by previous hearings.

BY DR. GRUBE:

Q Were the political leaders of the Auslandsorganisation in a special organization of political leaders; that is as the introduction of the trial brief reads in a special and recognizable organization which one could join from, from which one could resign, similar to the SA.

A No.

H1038-0041

Q Is this arrangement valid also generally regarding the political leaders?

A Certainly, though I myself was not a political leader within the Reich.

Q According to the decree of the Deputy of the leader dated 15 April 1945, which we shall submit in the document between the Leiter of the Auslandsorganisation had the rank of a Gauleiter. The Deputy Leader of the Auslandsorganisation had the rank of a Deputy Gauleiter and the Landesgruppenleiter of the Auslandsorganisation had the rank of a Gau Office Leiter. The same decree characterizes these three groups as well as the Kreisleiter and Ortsgruppenleiter of the Auslandsorganisation. I ask you whether these members of the Auslandsorganisation were actually Hoheitstrager in the sense that it was understood within the Reich?

A I believe to be able to elucidate this entire problem by three sentences. On the behalf of the decree which was just mentioned on the political leaders of the Auslandsorganisation, including the Gauleiters which had the corresponding rank of a Hoheitstrager. That was so because of course in foreign countries the one necessity was missing to the Hoheitstrager which was the Hoheitstrager area -- sovereign area. That is why the Landwsgruppenleiter were members of the staff of the Auslandsorganisation in Berlin and not as it should have been according to the party situation considered Kreisleiter.

Q Can I summarize your statement correctly by saying that the designation of Hoheitsyrager in the Auslandsorganisation was actually only a title?

A Yes. We did not even wear the insignia of rank which was provided for the Hoheitstrager within the Reich except the Gauleiter.

Q Is it true that the Hoheitstrager pyramid, so called in the Auslandsorganisation, differ from the Hoheitstrager pyramid within the Reich territory, which is to say that the

H1038-0042

organization book is wrong in this respect?

A The organization book, as far as it referred to the Hoheitstrager pyramid was not made according to the Auslands re-organisation and consequently was not valid for it.

Q I now come to another point. Did the Auslandsorganisation participate in the struggle of Volkstum in the south Tyrol and the Sudetenland, etc?

A No. All members of the Auslandsorganisation were prohibited strictly from participating in the struggle of Volkstum.

Q The hearing of Gauleiter Bohle already revealed the fact that the principle motto of the Auslandsorganisation was not to mix into other peoples' politics and that one of the reasons for it could be found in the Deputy of the Fuehrer, the representative point of view that National Socialism was in export goods.

COLONEL JONES: This has already been covered, you know.

DR. GRUBE: I shall come to the question.

H1038 - 0043

COLONEL NEAVE: I don't t[illegible] should hear what you think has been cleared up by Gauleiter Bohle. If you will state to the witness what is gathered in Gauleiter Bohle's evidence as facts but not what you think has been established.

BY DR. GRUBE:

Q. A further reason mentioned by Gauleiter Bohle was the diplomatic relationship with foreign countries should be burdened, that is why I want to ask you. The attitude of the Auslandsorginisation not to disturb diplomatic relations with other countries. Did this attitude also influence the Auslands-organization in the political disputed countries such as Alsace Lorraine?

A. Yes, In order not to dispute the political relationships with France before the war, the Auslandsorganization rejected any organizational activities in Alsace Lorraine. During the war also, we have not become active there.

Q. What was the effect of the order not to mix in on the Auslands-organization in their relation to Aus[illegible]ia in 1938?

A. The leader of the Auslandsorganization in Austria was prohibited specifically by Bohle from making any connections whatsoever with the so-called "illegals". This brought about constant friction between the illegal national socialists within Austria and the national socialists members of the Auslandsorganization which is to say the Reichsdeutsche.

Q. Were ther foreign offices of the Auslandsorganisation permitted to make connections with Nationalists or Facists group of the foreign countries?

A. This was repeatedly forbidded by Gauleiter Bohle. This previously however, was not applied to the so-called state carrying movements of Fascism and the Falange in Spain.

Q. What do you mean that this prohibiting did not apply to Fascism in Falange?

COL. N EAVE: That is a very vague question. Can't we get down to the facts?

BY DR. GRUBE:

Q. Is this answer to be taken to mean that the Auslandsorganisation could make contact with Fascism and Falange or are you referring to the Falange in the organisations?

H1038-0044

COLONEL NEAVE: I don't think we should hear what you think has been cleared up by Gauleiter Bohle. If you will state to the witness what is gathered in Gauleiter Bohle's evidence as facts but not what you think has been established.

BY DR. GRUBE:

Q. A further reason mentioned by Gauleiter Bohle was the diplomatic relationship with foreign countries should be burdened, that is why I want to ask you. The attitude of the Auslandsorginisation not to disturb diplomatic relations with other countries. Did this attitude also influence the Auslands-organization in the political disputed countries such as Alsace Lorraine?

A. Yes, In order not to dispute the political relationships with France before the war, the Auslandsorganization rejected any organizational activities in Alsace Lorraine. During the war also, we have not become active there.

Q. What was the effect of the order not to mix in on the Auslands-organization in their relation to Austria in 1938?

A. The leader of the Auslandsorganization in Austria was prohibited specifically by Bohle from making any connections whatsoever with the so-called "illegals". This brought about constant friction between the illegal national socialists within Austria and the national socialists members of the Auslandsorganization which is to say the Reichsdeutsche.

Q. Were ther foreign offices of the Auslandsorganisation permitted to make connections with Nationalists or Facists group of the foreign countries?

A. This was repeatedly forbidded by Gauleiter Bohle. This previously however, was not applied to the so-called state carrying movements of Fascism and the Falange in Spain.

Q. What do you mean that this prohibiting did not apply to Fascism in Falange?

COL. NEAVE: That is a very vague question. Can't we get down to the facts?

BY DR. GRUBE:

Q. Is this answer to be taken to mean that the Auslandsorganisation could make contact with Fascism and Falange or are you referring to the Falange in the organisations?

H1038 - 0045

A. In Italy and Spain there was a certain cooperation between the Landsgruppenleiter and the representatives of the Fascism and Falangist parties in Italy and Spain respectively.

Q. Why was the organization dissolved in the United States by the representative of Hess?

COLONLE JONES: Surely this cannot be of any assistance in the defense of the political leaders, for reasons agree the Bund in America was dissolved.

COLONEL NEAVE: No. I don't think that question is relevant at all. I do want to know very briefly what further matters you want to bring up particularly in respect to the activity of the organization in the United States. No doubt this witness is in a position to know something about that but on theother hand it seems to be a matter which his Chief has very thoroughly gone into. Is he particularly qualified to know about the United States except insofar as he was the personal assistant to Bohle?

DR. GRUBE: The hearing heretofore has been of great value on the personality of Mr. Grote. He was active in the leadership of the organization, and it is said to have received reports from the confidential agents in the United States and there are said to have been reports of great political contact.

COLONEL NEAVE: Yes, but hasn't Bohle answered that allegation already? I find that in the transcript myself.

COLONEL JONES: Surely if the man has already dealt with by Bohle, it isn't necessary to go on.

COLONEL NEAVE: This man has been dealt with in the cross examination. What I want to know is what further matters in defense of this organization can you draw out with regard to Mr. Grote and what is it you want to establish that has already been dealt with?

DR. GRUBE: Of what Bohle said, "I know nothing about Grote receiving such letters". The questions which the prosecution put in this cross examination lead me to believe that Bohle did not have the all inclusive perspective. The German record reads literally on page 6483, "in a question of prosecution that I am sure must conclude from your statement that you are ignorant of the happenings within the organization". Bohle answered, "it is understood that

H1038 - 0046

such an organization demanded the chief to reside in Berlin must not know everything which happens on the outside, particularly if it is done against his orders".

COLONEL NEAVE: Now you are talking about something quite different, not matters in respect to Grote.

DR. GRUBE: No, but Bohle was charged with having no supervision of his organization and Bohle in regard to the question pertaining to Grote explained, "that he did not know of such reports." I just want to prove that he did receive reports and in order to make it sure I want to ask his personal referent.

COLONEL NEAVE: Let me read this page to you on page 6487 of the English transcript in answer to a question by Colonel Amen. It is at the top of the page and it is the first answer at the top of the page. It is the second sentence, the first answer of Bohle at the top of the page: "Mr. Grote had an honorary position with us because of his advanced age and took over the branch of the office because it was of no importance at all in the "Auslandsorganisation". Now what more do you really require to go into in

H1038 - 0047

in order to defend the organization?

COLONEL NEAVE: Evidently Gauleiter Bohle didn't think this was a very important matter.

DR. GRUBE: I want to shortly go into the person of von Strempel after the prosecution has brought von Strempel further as a witness for them. And an affidavit from von Strempel was submitted by the prosecution during the session. If the defense for the political leaders has found now the defense of the political leaders must have grave doubts as to the creditability of this witness. In order to illustrate this further, I should like to ask the witness questions about Herr von Streipel.

COLONEL NEAVE: You are going to leave Grote out?

DR. GRUBE: After having found that Grote had not an important office in the Auslandsorganisation I shall leave him and Grote was shown not to be the proper person to execute important political actions in the United States nor to evaluate and take measures on reports being sent to him.

COLONEL NEAVE: Now this interrogation of Herr von Strempel. That was referred to in Col. Amen's interrogation wasn't it?

DR. GRUBE: von Strempel was not heard in the Tribunal during the session but the prosecution submitted an affidavit by Herr von Strempel which was shown to Bohle.

COLONEL NEAVE: Can you tell me what page that was on?

DR. GRUBE: The German document page 6483.

COLONEL NEAVE: It was actually on Page 6482 further referred to on another page, on page 6487. Will you wait just one minute while I read through the whole affidavit? Will you ask the witness whether he knows anything about this subject but briefly ?

BY DR. GRUBE:

Q Are you acquainted with von Strempel?

A I know von Strempel. He was Counsel of the legation of the German Legation in Washington.

Q How was the relationship between von Strempel and the Auslands-organisation?

A Because Gauleiter Bohle rejected von Strempel. von Strempel knew

H1038-0048

that because Gauleiter Bohle saw in von Strempel a political representative of the Foreign Office and he believed that he had to reject him.

Q So there were certain tension in the relationship with von Strempel?

A Yes.

Q von Strempel stated in the affidavit which he gave to the prosecution after the dissolution of the Auslandsorganisation in Vienna in 1933. It is said to have entertained relationship with the German American Bund. For instance, it is said to have issued directives to the German American Bund as to its organizational structure as to the holding of mass meetings, as to the propaganda, etc. Witness, did you ever hear of such a thing that this might have been the case?

A No. I would have known of that and it certainly has not been done by the leadership of the organization.

Q von Strempel further maintained in his affidavit that Draeger is said to have been the representative of the Foreign Department of the party in the U.S.A. This Draeger is said to have conducted the relationship with the foreigners of the German American Bund. When the Deputy of the Fuehrer issued a decree in the year 1935-36 that all Reich Germans had to resign from the German American Bund. Witness, [illegible] you ever heard of Mr. Draeger having conducted relationship with the German American Bund as a representative of the NSDAP?

A As far as I know the Auslandsorganisation did not have any confidential agent by the name of Draeger in North America. I assumed that von Strempel referred to the German consul in New York, Dr. Dreger.

Q Would von Strempel have had to know the name of the confidential agent in the United States?

A Certainly, because Dr. Dreger who was a consul and member of the Foreign Office belonged to the same agency von Strempel belonged to.

COLONEL NEAVE: Wait a minute. I don't see the point to this. von Strempel said he was talking about Mr. Draeger who was the consul in New York. He said that in his affidavit. Is anything being said about another Dr. Dreger but only Mr. Draeger.

COLONEL NEAVE: It said on [illegible] 6485 of the English Transcript. In

H1038 - 0049

the English protocol there is an answer to the question which is part of the affidavit of von Strempel. It is at the top, "I am sure Mr. Drege, consul in New York City and representative of the Foreign Section of the Party, did continue to have relations with both officials." So I don't think you really should confuse this discussion concerning Mr. Drege with another Mr. Draeger whose name is spelled different. This is, in fact, a misprint in connection with correct spelling of the consul's name. The correct spelling of his name, then, is Dreger according to you, is it?

DR. GRUBE: The correct spelling seems to be Draeger.

COLONEL NEAVE: And we are talking about the consul in New York?

DR. GRUBE: Yes.

BY DR. GRUBE:

Q I am now coming to another point regarding von Strempel. According to the statements of the prosecution, Herr von Strempel was in the German legation in Washington. According to Herr von Strempel he had been First Secretary of the Legation in Washington since 1938. Again on the basis of the statements of the prosecution, his statements were made regarding the situation pre-dating 1938. He could not have known the situation on the basis of personal experience but in order to be sure I shall ask you. Do you know whether Herr von Strempel was connected with the Legation in Washington before 1938?

A No. As far as I can recall he was in Cairo before.

Q One more question to the credibility of Herr von Strempel. In the session of the Tribunal on the 25th of March 1945, the prosecution stated according to the German records 6504 that during the interrogation of Herr von Strempel, he was asked whether he had made a report to the Foreign Office in Berlin concerning the relationship of von Draeger to the German American Bund. Herr von Strempel is said to have answered "yes" several time , and reports which he made for Thompson when he was at the Legation. We have called Bohle's attention to the relationships with the Bund being very harmful. I now ask the witness did you ever hear of Herr von Strempel and Thompson sending such reports to the Foreign Office?

A No.

H1038 - 0050

Q Would Thompson and Herr von Strempel be forced to make such reports to the Foreign Office or would there have been other ways?

A Consul Dr. Draeger was a full time paid consul and only honorary representative of the Auslandsorganisation. The German Ambassador in Washington, Herr Thompson would have found it easier to simply prohibit Dr. Draeger from continuing relations with the German American Bund. It is possible that within the execution of his duties, Counsul Draeger had connections with the German American Bund or any other German associations.

COLONEL NEAVE: This I am sure, doesn't seem to be the answer to your question at all. Would they have had any other means of sending reports?

DR. GRUBE: No. I just wanted to find out whether if Thompson or von Strempel had any conception whether there would have been another way to stop this situation except by reporting to Berlin.

COLONEL NEAVE: He doesn't seem to be answering that question.

THE WITNESS: Yes, I have answered it by saying that the Ambassador Thompson had the possibility to prohibit the activities of Dr. Draeger without making a report to Berlin.

COLONEL NEAVE: I see.

DR. GRUBE: The third question to the third point.

COLONEL NEAVE: We will have a short recess here for 10 minutes.

(The commission recessed at 1142 hours.)

H1038-0051

DIRECT EXAMINATION RESUMED AT 1200 HOURS

Q Witness. According to the statement of the Prosecution which coincides with yours, was Herr von Strempel also active in the German Legation only since 1938? His assumed reports, which the Prosecution also states, refer to the situation before 1938, that is to say, of matters which were of the past. There was no more cause for the Foreign Office to ask Draeger to break off his relationship to the Bund. Can you tell me what other reasons may have caused that sort of reports?

A I remember on the basis of my work with the Legal Department of the leadership of the Auslandsorganisation Office in Berlin, it fell within my duties to work on the so-called home-coming project of expert tradesmen from America.

Q I believe witness, you have understood me. I wanted to ask you if those reports from Thompsen or from von Strempel regarding the relationship of Draeger to the Bund are meaningless because they refer to a situation which prevailed before 1938. Could you think of anything which may have caused Thompson and von Strempel to send reports regarding these past events?

A I don't know any reason which might have caused such reports to be made.

COLONEL NEAVE: Is that really relevant?

DR. GRUBE: I considered it relevant because I disputed the fact that von Strempel made such reports. von Strempel was a member of the Legation in Washington only since 1938. After the statement of the prosecution itself, his reports referred to a situation before 1938. I cannot see what the meaning was of these reports by von Strempel after these things were of the past and taken care of and for this reason I consider the statement of von Strempel false; that he has made any reports whatsoever to the Foreign Office.

COLONEL NEAVE: Will you make this very short. I am not clear at all how it is relevant in this case.

DR. GRUBE: That finishes the case of von Strempel. I have some questions regarding the cooperation between the Auslandsorganisation and the German American Bund. I want to summarize this, however, in order to save time, into one single question.

H1038-0052

BY DR. GRUBE:

Q Have you ever heard of any officials of the German American Bund returning to Germany at the request or at the instigation of the Auslands-organisation? And to have conferences with representatives of the Auslandsorganisation or that these had conferences with the Fuehrer or the Deputy of the Fuehrer at the instigation of the Auslandsorganisation?

A As far as I can recall, Kuhn, who was the leader of the German American Bund, was in Berlin during the Olympiade. He was received by the Fuehrer, as far as I can recall, also by Hess. It is quite impossible that his visit to Germany, the reception by the Fuehrer or with the Deputy of the Fuehrer, has been instigated by the Auslandsorganisation.

Q On the basis of your activities in the Central Office of the Auslandsorganisation and on the basis of your position as the personal ADC of the leiter of the Auslandsorganisation, would you have to have had knowledge of any secret radio transmitters in either the Central Office or any of the offices in foreign countries?/

A I would have had to know of this. No office of the Auslandsorganisation, of the NSDAP in foreign countries, and also the leadership of the organization in Berlin ever has had either a secret or a public sender.

Q The prosecution refers to a telegram of the German Ambassador von Stohrer in Madrid. This document was introduced as a Document NG-158. Have you ever heard or observed that the Landesgruppen in Spain had a transmitter?

A I can definitely state that the Landesgruppen in Spain never has had a transmitter.

Q Did the German Embassies have secret transmitters?

A Yes, the German Embassies did have secret transmitters.

Q Did the leadership of the Auslandsorganisation issue any military or paramilitary orders to the Landes[illegible]?

A During the time I was attached to the leadership of the Auslandsorganisation, such orders were not issued. I do not know of anything like that having been the case previously.

Q Did the Landesgruppen leader of the Auslandsorganisation transfer such reports of a military or paramilitary nature to the Central Office?

H1038-0053

A No. Such reports were not sent to the leadership of the Auslandsorganisation. If an individual German National in a foreign country reported such a thing to his Landesgruppen leader, this man was sent to the competent Military attache without any action being taken on his report.

Q The prosecution has submitted a book compiled by the Americans, pertaining to the Organization in Holland, PS 3258. It was introduced as Exhibit B262. This document maintains that the Auslandsorganisation of the NSDAP continued in Holland under the name of Reichsdeutsche Gemeinschaft or Citizenship Association. The leader is said to have been a certain Dr. Butting. Witness, do you know anything about this association?

A I know both the association and Dr. Butting.

Q Was this a secret organization?

A I want to say very little about the organization of the Reichs German in foreign countries. In any locality where there were found German Nationals, there was in existence a so-called Reichs German association. All Reichs Germans belonged to this association regardless of their party affiliation. This association was lead by a confidential representative of the Ortsgruppenleiter of the Auslandsorganisation. In 1936 the Landesgruppen which is to say, the representative of the party organization, was prohibited in Holland. But this does not apply to the Reichsdeutsche Gemeinschaft. The former leaders of the Auslandsorganisation in Holland remained in Holland with a knowledge of the Dutch Government. He became the leader of the Reichsdeutsche Gemeinschaft.

Q Did the Dutch Government know of the Reichsdeutsche Gemeinschaft?

A This could be seen from the fact that ordinary correspondence went to the place with the different local Dutch Reichsdeutsche Gemeinschaft groups by way of ordinary postal channels.

Q The prosecution states that the leader of the Reichsdeutsche Gemeinschaft, Dr. Butting, had cooperated with the Intelligence and Espionage Service in Holland to which belonged 12 agents of the Canaris Bureau. I ask you witness, whether it is true that while you were present at conferences to the press between Bohle, Canaris and Schellenberg, is it true that Bohle decisively declared during his conferences that under no circumstances could

H1038-0054

political leaders of the Auslandsorganisation be performing services of the SD and the Counter-Intelligence Service?

A Yes. Dr. Bohle has asked again and again not to use political leaders for this purpose. We know that individual political leaders were drafted for the SD and the Counter-Intelligence. Gauleiter Bohle has asked of Admiral Canaris as well as from Schellenberg who was the Leiter of Section VI of the RSHA, that those political leaders who were drafted into these organizations would immediately be dismissed from that service. All the names of these people would be submitted to him so that he could dispose them as political leaders.

Q What were the reasons Bohle gave to Canaris and Schellenberg in explanation of this attitude?

A The danger that the Landesgruppen concerned may be prohibited would make it impossible for him to fulfill his tasks to care for the Reichsdeutsche abroad.

COLONEL NEAVE: Wait a minute Dr. Grube. Have you got any more questions? Otherwise we won't have very much time for the cross-examination.

DR. GRUBE: Only two more questions.

BY DR. GRUBE:

Q Is it correct that both Canaris and Schellenberg promised Bohle not to use the political leaders of the Auslandsorganisation as Counter-Intelligence

A Yes, and to respectively dismiss those who had already been engaged in that work.

Q If political leaders of the Auslandsorganisation actually had cooperated with the SD and the Counter-Intelligence, they acted against the definite order of Bohle and against the assurances made by Canaris and Schellenberg?

A Yes, that is correct. During conferences, these agreements were always brought to the attention of the Landesgruppen leaders.

DR. GRUBE: No further questions, Sir.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY COLONEL JONES:

Q For what reason was the Auslandsorganisation closed down in Holland?

H1038-0055

A I do not recall the reasons. That took place before my time.

Q It was closed down because the Dutch Government thought it was a nuisance. Isn't that correct?

A Yes Sir.

Q Because it was undermining or rather it was spreading Nazi influence into Holland?

A Yes in viewof the Dutch Government.

Q That is the same reason the Auslandsorganisation in America had closed down, wasn't it?

A The Auslandsorganisation in America was dissolved by the Deputy of the Fuehrer.

Q That is the same reason that it was dissolved and was never reorganized?

A Yes.

Q And you know that between April and May of 1938 there were no less than 9 representatives of the Auslandsorganisation in England were required to leave that country?

A Yes.

Q You know that one of them was named Roesel or that one of the Auslandsorganisation representatives in England was called Roesel?

A I cannot recall the name.

Q Do you remember that he was a correspondent on Goebbels' newspaper in London and in his spare time he acted as leader of the London Group of the Auslandsorganisation?

A I cannot recall anything definite but I believe that he cooperated in the press office of the Landsgruppe.

Q Yes. He was thrown out of London on the suspicion of espionage activities.

A That is possible but I cannot recall exactly.

Q Can't you remember that he then went subsequently to Stockholm? He replaced the SS man whohad been in Stockholm called Wagner.

A No, I don't know.

Q. Can't you remember him being thrown out of Stockholm by the Swedish Government ?

A. I cannot recall that.

Q. It is very remarkable that you can't remember a person like that who seems to have been around the capitols of Europe.

A. I myself was in Sweden twice during the war and I certainly would have if Roesel had been the leader of the political organization in Sweden I would have recalled this situation now.

Q. Why was it if the Auslandsorganisation was perfectly harmless, why was it that it should have been closed down in the United States, closed down in Holland and that during the course of 2 months in 1939, April and May, the preparations of war were in hand ? No less than 9 of their representatives to be sent out of England.

A. I believe that those governments which prohibited the Auslands organisation and the Government of the United States does not belong within that group, believed that our organisation would be an espionage organisation.

Q. I am asking you why, if it wasn't an espionage organization, why should it be necessary for 2 countries to cause you to close down in their territory and a third country to expell 9 of your representatives ?

A. I am aware of the fact and I have stated so in answer to the question of my attorney, that some members were in the service of the SD and the counter-espionage. I want to state once more that this was in the case with the knowledge of the Auslandsorganisation. In the case of England, Holland, and also I want to say in the case of Brazil, the events took place which Gauleiter Bohle wished to stop carried the assumption of foreign governments. that because several of the political leaders were in the service of these organizations mentioned above and the entire organization was thought to be an espionage organization. I wish to call your attention to the trials of certaih individual Germans in the USA, in Argentina and in Switzerland.

Q. We have listened to you for the last 15 minutes and it really isn't necessary. Let me aks you again and finally, can you suggest any reason for this organization being closed down in 2 countries and 9 representatives of

H1038-0056

your organization in a third country being thrown out if it wasn't because y organization was an organization for espionage and spying ?

A. Only for the eason that they assumed it was anespoinage organization.

Q. In the interest of time, I do not propose to cross-examine this witness any further. The evidence that he ahs given in effect is exactly the same as his superior Bohle gave and he did only for the purpose of the record mention the page of the transcript which, where the cross-examination of Bohle commenced on page 6454- that was on the 25th of March and the documents which were put to him in the cross-examination and which refuted the evidence he gave were GB 262, 284, 285 and 286.

COLONEL NEAVE: Wasn't that the last list of documents submitted at the end of your cross-examination ?

COLONEL JONES: I think so.

COLONEL NEAVE: Do you wish to re-examine him in connection with this cross-examination ?

DR. GRUBE: One question in connection with the cross-examination. The prosecutor stated that 9 members of the Auslandsorganisation were thrown out of England in the spring of 1939 .

COLONEL JONES: I did not state that at all. I asked if it was so and it was stated to be so by the witness.

COLONEL NEAVE: It is a perfectly proper objection.

BY DR. GRUBE:

Q. Witness, has the Auslandsorganisaton been dissolved due to these events in England ?

A. The Ausladsorganisation for Great Britain has not been dissolved. The expulsions referred to was referring to honorary members of the Auslandsorganisation. As far as I can recall were expelled because of other activities.

Q Q. On the basis of your experience abroad, did the Auslandsorganisation in England have been dissolved if it had have been proven that the employers of these 9 expelled persons actually was the Auslandsorganisation ?

A. Yes, it has been tried in England once before. Mr. Churchill tried that and then had a conference with Gauleiter Bohle in 1937 on the basis of which Churchill stopped all attacks on the Landesgruppen in England of the Auslandsorganisation.

H1038-0057

Q. The cross-examination might have given the impression that the dissolution of the Auslandsorganisation in the United States was compelled by the United States Government. That is why I ask you, who has dissolved the Auslandsorganisation in the United States ?

A. The Deputy of the Fuehrer Hess.

Q. Was it dissolved on the basis of the diplomatic pressure of the United States ?

A. No. On the basis of reports of confidential agents of the Auslandsorganisation. Because of the danger that the USA might say that the Auslandsorganisation is mixing into interior affairs. That was a very possible conclusion to draw becuase many former Germans had become US Nationals.

Q. Was there a re-rganization of the Auslandsorganisation after its discolution by Hess in the United States ?

A. No, to the contrary. Only confidential agents were appointed to have explicit orders were to watch out carefully that no where in the USA the Auslandsorganisation would be reorganized or reformed.

Q. Is it correct that the Swiss Court on case of the Bustloff case established the legality of the Auslandsorganisation ?

A. Yes, that is correct. I myself have discussed it with Professor Grimm

COLONEL NEAVE: Is that question supposed to be arising out of cross-examination ?

DR. GRUBE: Yes, it is, because the prosecutor enumerated those countries where the Auslandsorganisation was prohibited.

COLONEL NEAVE: The only mention of Switzerland was in answer to a question of the prosecution which did not seem to me relevant to the questions at all.

DR. GRUBE: The two countries which were mentioned were mentioned to prove the illegal connections of the Auslandsorganisation.

COLONEL NEAVE: The prosecution did not mention Switzerland.

DR. GRUBE: Then I shall ask the following question.

BY DR. GRUBE:

Q. Besides in the 2 countries which the prosecution mentioned, was the legal or illegal connections of the Auslandsorganisation also examined in other countries ?

H1038-0058

A. Yes. This brought about an investigation in Switzerland due to the Gustloff case. Switzerland declared a continuation of the existence of the Auslandsorganisation undesirable. It permitted, however, the continuation of the local groups of the Auslandsorganisation after court trials had established it that the activities of the Ortsgruppenleiter did not contridict Swiss law.

Q. Did other countries also declare the legal or illegal character of the Auslandsorganisation ? Isn't it also proof for the legality of the Auslandsorganisation the fact that in neutral countries after 1943, which is to say after a time when Germany could no longer enforce the continued of such gr. such as in Switzerland and Portugal and continaution was permitted.

A. Yes, the groups abroad of the Auslandsorganisation were in existence in Switzerland and Portugal, for instance, until the break-down.

DR. GRUBE: No further questions.

COLONEL JONES: There is one matter which I really ought to ask. I don't know whether I can get permission to do so now. It is only a very short one.

COLONEL NEAVE: All right.

BY COLONEL JONES:

Q. Do I understand that you are maintaining that after the Auslandsorganisation was formally closed down in Holland that itdid not continue to exist ?

A. I do not want to say that because the Auslandsorganisation had assignments to care for the Reichsdeutche, and tasks in Holland no longer were of a political matter by a factual nature.

Q. The Auslandsorganisation in fact, continued afterwards as the Citizenship Association ?

A. No. I have already declared that the Reichsdeutche Association was something else than the Auslandsorganisation.

Q. Did Butting continue to remain active as a Landesgruppen leader, anyway up to 1938, did he not .

A. Butting remained as the leader of the Reichsdeutche Association with the knowledge of the Dutch Government, remained in Holland.

H1038-0059

H1038-0060

Q. He remained as Landesgruppenleiter did he not?

A. In the internal relationship he continued carrying his title as Landesgruppenleiter. But in Holland since the Landsgruppe was prohibted he acted as a leader of the Reichsdeutche Association.

DR. GRUBE: The witness stated that he acted in theinternal relationship of the Auslandsorganisation as Landesgruppenleiter and on the outside he acted as the Leiter of the Reichsdeutche Association.

BY DR. GRUBE:

Q. Do you stick to your statement that the Reichsdeutche Association was part of the Auslandsorganisation being a system of all German Nationals to which every German National belonged, regardless of his party affiliations, while it is known that the Auslandsorganisation membership all were party members?

A. That is right. After the perpetration in Holland there were no more local groups of the NSDAP in Holland.

Q. And these local groups of the Reichsdeutche Association was not substituted for the local group of the NSDAP.

A. No, if only for the reason all German Nationals belonged to it.

DR. GRUBE: No further questions.

COLONEL NEAVE: Do you want this witness kept in Nuremberg?

DR. GRUBE: I should like him to remain here if he may. During the week we shall discuss whether we need him or not.

COLONEL NEAVE: You mean if we should call him before the Tribunal?

DR. GRUBE: No. We don't know yet.

COLONEL NEAVE: You should decide very soon. We don't want the witness further. You may go. We had better have the witness Mueller in now so that we can discuss him.

Commission recessed at 1258 hours.

H1038-0061

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of GRAF VON ROEDERN, taken on 2 July 1946

Marjorie Shumway
reporter

CERTIFIED TO:

A. M. S. Neave
commissioner